

## *Fallopia japonica* var. *japonica*, Japanese Knotweed

Japanese Knotweed was introduced from Eastern Asia and spread rapidly throughout the Northeast. This plant can reduce species diversity, alter natural ecosystems, and negatively impact wildlife. Once Japanese Knotweed is present, it is very persistent and hard to manage.

**Description:** This perennial has light green stems, often with reddish flecks. The plant is branched and can grow 3-4.5 meters in height. The leaves are broadly ovate with a rounded base and pointed tip. They are arranged alternating on the zig-zag stems. These leaves can be 3-6 inches long, often appearing to be slightly heart shaped. During dormancy, the plant appears reddish-orange as seen in the bottom picture.

**Control:** Due to an extensive rhizome system, Knotweed can be difficult to control. Small plants may be removed mechanically, though it is only effective if all of the roots are pulled up. Herbicide can be applied to the stems of knotweed to provide control.

**Look-a-likes:** Giant Knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*) has many similar characteristics to the Japanese Knotweed, although it is typically much larger. Another similar species is the Himalayan Knotweed (*Polygonum polystachyum*), which can be distinguished having slightly hairy stems and more slender leaves.

**Flower Time and Description:** This plant flowers from August to September with off-white flowers that show in clusters of 3-6.

